

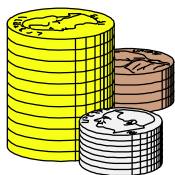
I. County Description



Established in 1875, Unicoi County is located in Northeast Tennessee. Unicoi

County is bordered by the Tennessee Counties of Washington, Carter, and Greene, and by the North Carolina Counties of Madison, Yancy, and Mitchell. Both the Nolichucky River and Unaka Mountain enhance the county's scenic beauty.

Unicoi County had a 1996 estimated population of 17,135 citizens. The county seat is Erwin with 5,145 inhabitants (1996 estimate). The County has a land area of 186.1 square miles with approximately 92.1 people per square mile. Between 1990 and 1996 the county recorded a 3.5% growth in population. Unicoi County's population is predominately white (around 99.2%). Despite the low minority population, Unicoi County has a growing Hispanic population, resulting from the desire of Mexican migrant workers to remain in the county. The majority of Unicoi County's citizens are between 25 and 44 years of age; however, citizens 40 years and older comprise the fastest-growing segment of Unicoi County's population.



Unicoi County had a per capita income of \$15,421 in 1993 and \$15,725 in 1994 for a 2% change. The median household income for 1993 was an estimated \$23,601. In 1993, an estimated 2,901 people (17.4% of the population) were living in poverty in Unicoi County.



Unicoi County has one hospital located in Erwin. There are eight (8) primary care physicians and three (3) dentists in Unicoi County. Only one county dentist accepts TennCare, and he is associated with the Unicoi County Health Department and primarily serves citizens 21 years of age and under.

II. Needs Assessment Data

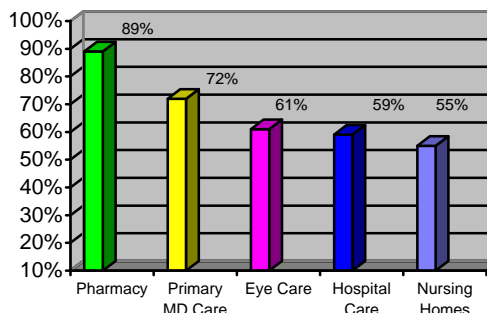
A. Community Stakeholder Survey

The Stakeholder Survey provides a profile of perceived health care needs and problems facing the community stakeholders who respond to the survey. We see council members and other residents similar in that all have a stake in the overall improvement of Unicoi County's health status and health care. This survey includes questions about the adequacy of availability, accessibility, and level of satisfaction regarding health care services in the community. The Community Stakeholder Survey is not a scientific random sample of the community; rather, its purpose is to obtain subjective perceptions of health care from a cross-section of the community. It is one of two sources of primary data used in the community diagnosis process.

The Stakeholder Survey was distributed to Unicoi County Health Council members in addition to a wide variety of community residents. The stakeholders included both the users and providers of health care services.

Of the 100 respondents to the survey, 69% were female. Respondents were predominately white, married, and 67% of them had lived in the county more than 20 years.

Of several *Health Care Services* in the community respondents perceived the availability of the vast majority to be Adequate or Better. Services considered most adequate of availability by the highest percentages of respondents included:



Most respondents were Satisfied or Better with *Physician Care/Services*; the only exceptions